

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 55-67 and 69-84 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 55 is amended to include the features of objected to claim 68, which is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The outstanding rejections are addressed below.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Parks et al. in view of Ketchersid

Claims 55-57, 60-63, 67, 69, 72-75, 79, 82, and 84 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Parks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,739,975) in view of Ketchersid (U.S. Patent No. 5,606,474). Applicant respectfully traverses.

As noted above, claim 55 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected to claim 68. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 55 is allowable at least by virtue of incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 68, and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

As to the dependent claims, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as by virtue of the features recited therein.

Parks et al. in view of Ketchersid and Wang

Claims 58-59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Parks in view of Ketchersid, further in view of Wang et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0055702). Without commenting substantively, Applicant submits that these claims are

allowable at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as by virtue of the features recited therein.

Parks in view of Ketchersid and Nozieres

Claims 64-65 and 83 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Parks in view of Ketchersid, further in view of Nozieres (EP1,131,031). Without commenting substantively, Applicant submits that claims 64-65 and 83 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as by virtue of the features recited therein.

Parks in view of Ketchersid, further in view of "Glass Substrate for Magnetic Disk in HDD" Information Sheet

Claim 66 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Parks in view of Ketchersid, further in view of "Glass Substrate for Magnetic Disk in HDD", Information Sheet, <http://www7.big.or.jp/~cgi18786/ngf/nglass/ng06e.html>.<sup>1</sup> Without commenting substantively, Applicant submits that claim 66 is allowable at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as by virtue of the features recited therein.

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<sup>1</sup> Applicant disputes the Examiner's apparent inference that the Information Sheet is admitted prior art based on its submission in the IDS of May 20, 2004. Applicant expressly noted that the submission of the listed documents was not intended as any admission of such documents constituting prior art.

Parks in view of Ketchersid and Liikanen

Claims 70-71 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Parks in view of Ketchersid, further in view of Liikanen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,102). Without commenting substantively, Applicant submits that claims 70-71 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as by virtue of the features recited therein.

Parks in view of Ketchersid and Dunfield

Claims 76-78 and 80 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Parks in view of Ketchersid, further in view of Dunfield et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,335,850). Without commenting substantively, Applicant submits that claims 76-78 and 80 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as by virtue of the features recited therein.

Parks in view of Ketchersid and Germuska

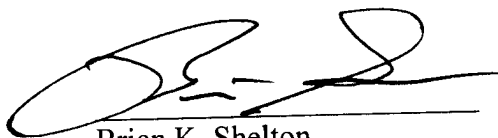
Claim 81 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Parks in view of Ketchersid, further in view of Germuska (GB 2178569). Without commenting substantively, Applicant submits that claim 81 is allowable at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as by virtue of the features recited therein.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. As claim 55 is amended to include the features of allowable claim 68, no new issues are believed to be raised which would necessitate further search or consideration. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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